

SHOWCASING SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA BRINGS NEW JOBS TO THE REGION

□□□□□□□□□□My highest priority in representing the Ninth Congressional District in Congress is the creation of new jobs for our region. For that reason, I work actively with Southwest Virginia's local government and business leaders to implement a multi-faceted strategy to enhance economic development in the many sectors of Southwest Virginia's economy. Our strategy includes ensuring that the region's infrastructure is sufficient to meet the needs of businesses, creating a climate that is favorable to the development of locally owned small businesses, and attracting companies seeking to expand their operations into new locations to the region.

□□□□□□□□□□As part of that effort, my Showcasing Southwest Virginia program aims to attract top-tier companies to the area and bring new jobs to the region's residents. I am pleased to report that this week we marked a major success for my Showcasing Southwest Virginia program when KCG, a company which I brought to Lee County in 2005, added 50 new jobs at its call center in Pennington Gap. The company now employs 250 at the call center. The jobs offer competitive wages and health insurance options, a portion of which is paid by the

company.

Earlier this year, my Showcasing Southwest Virginia program marked another major success. DIRECTV, a company that I introduced to the region, chose Southwest Virginia as the location for a new virtual call center, which now employs 137 of our region's residents. The employees of the virtual call center receive the same benefits as employees of physical call centers without the associated expenses such as meals out and travel costs.

The new employees hired by DIRECTV are working from their homes using our region's extensive broadband network to take calls from the company's customers nationwide. The company specifically chose Southwest Virginia as a result of the region's widespread broadband availability.

And late last year, a company that my Showcasing Southwest Virginia program brought to Patrick County added 135 jobs. The addition makes the company Patrick County's largest private sector employer at 300 employees.

Step by positive step we are working to achieve our economic development goals for Southwest Virginia residents, and these recent advancements mark significant progress in that effort. I look forward to further working with local officials across the Ninth District as we achieve similar successes in the future.

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